

pricing of heroin, cocaine and all the rest—because I think that misses the point. There are a few simple considerations that come to mind in judging whether to decertify Mexico.

First, do we believe that the political leadership in Mexico is honestly committed to solving this problem and working with us toward that goal? I believe the answer is "yes". President Zedillo appears willing to engage in comprehensive efforts to seize and eradicate drugs destined for our streets. He's committed to arresting and prosecuting major traffickers and kingpins . . . and I understand that such individuals have received stiff sentences recently, ranging from 9 to 40 years. He's scrapped the discredited National Drug Control Institute and replaced it with a new Special Prosecutor's Office. He's begun the process of weeding out corrupt officials in the Mexican judicial system, dumping three judges so far. He's helped to increase marijuana eradication to record levels, and armed law enforcement allowing cocaine seizure rates to jump 47%. And Mexico has worked closely with us in developing new overflight clearance procedures, while common ground is being established in the areas of money laundering controls and asset forfeiture issues.

Second, will economic and diplomatic sanctions on Mexico improve our chances of stemming the tide of drugs? The answer is no.

Let's be clear on this point: sanctioning Mexico will likely invite retaliation in a variety of forms . . . anti-Americanism . . . additional political ostracism in the hemisphere . . . and could, over the long-term, have the consequence of creating a broader national security threat right on our border.

Third, a Democrat House colleague thoughtfully observed in today's Los Angeles Times that "It's hard for the United States to cast the first stone." Perhaps it's time we take a stone-cold look in the mirror and admit that until we take massive, comprehensive steps to address the demand side of this problem, trying to sort it out, principally on the supply side is doomed to failure.

Fourth and lastly, sometime soon I hope we can carefully examine whether we should annually engage in this painful exercise in self-flagellation by openly ripping countries with which we might have strong disagreements on the drug issue but share a great deal in common as well. The present mechanism for evidencing our concerns is self-defeating when it comes to Mexico and deleterious, I believe, to the overall relationship.

Mr. President, Mexico's record on drug interdiction has to improve, and I don't fault colleagues in the Senate for demanding results. Many of their concerns are legitimate and deserve to be heard. Like them, I am particularly concerned about the lack of extraditions of Mexican nationals from Mexico, and have been personally assured by officials at the highest level of our

government that they will redouble their efforts to get the ball moving in this area. I understand five individuals are presently appealing their extraditions, and I intend to watch closely to see that the Mexican government lives up to its part of the bargain should those appeals fail.

For now, however, I believe decertifying Mexico will do more to reverse the limited progress we've made to date, and virtually eliminate any hope we have about future cooperation. That's a risk too great to take.

Let's treat Mexico as a friend and partner in this process, instead of blaming it for a problem that starts and ends with the insatiable appetite for drugs on our own streets.

We are just about to vote on this particular issue. Mr. President, I must confess I came very close to agreeing with the decertification provision that we are going to be voting on this evening. But upon more mature reflection, I have decided that the consequences for our friends in Mexico and the efforts that President Zedillo and others are putting forward, that would be counterproductive for a neighbor with whom we share a 2,000 mile border and for the kind of reaction that it would elicit from not only our neighbors in Mexico, who are trying, but from neighbors throughout South America.

So I urge my colleagues on this particular resolution to vote against the resolution, notwithstanding the fact that I share very real concerns, particularly the failure to extradite a single Mexican national to the United States on drug charges to date. I know there are some in the pipeline. Hope springs eternal. I may come to a different conclusion on this same resolution next year.

With that, Mr. President, I yield any time remaining to the distinguished Senator from Delaware and I yield the floor.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I yield the time remaining.

Mr. BIDEN. I yield back whatever time is left.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Are the yeas and nays requested?

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced, yeas 45, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 47 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Allard	Faircloth	Moseley-Braun
Ashcroft	Feingold	Murkowski
Bond	Feinstein	Murray
Boxer	Frist	Nickles
Brownback	Gramm	Santorum
Byrd	Grams	Sessions
Coats	Gregg	Shelby
Collins	Harkin	Smith (NH)
Conrad	Helms	Snowe
Coverdell	Hollings	Specter
Craig	Hutchinson	Stevens
D'Amato	Kempthorne	Thomas
Dorgan	Kohl	Thompson
Durbin	Leahy	Torricelli
Enzi	McConnell	Wyden

NAYS—54

Abraham	Ford	Lieberman
Akaka	Glenn	Lott
Baucus	Gorton	Lugar
Bennett	Graham	Mack
Biden	Grassley	McCain
Bingaman	Hagel	Mikulski
Breaux	Hatch	Moynihan
Bryan	Hutchison	Reed
Bumpers	Inouye	Reid
Burns	Jeffords	Robb
Campbell	Johnson	Roberts
Chafee	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Cleland	Kerrey	Roth
Cochran	Kerry	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kyl	Smith (OR)
DeWine	Landrieu	Thurmond
Dodd	Lautenberg	Warner
Domenici	Levin	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 42) was rejected.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was rejected.

Mrs. BOXER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 25, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,544,337,068,114.14 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-four billion, three hundred thirty-seven million, sixty-eight thousand, one hundred fourteen dollars and fourteen cents).

One year ago, March 25, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,374,777,000,000

(Five trillion, three hundred seventy-four billion, seven hundred seventy-seven million).

Five years ago, March 25, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,222,072,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-two billion, seventy-two million).

Ten years ago, March 25, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,480,270,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred eighty billion, two hundred seventy million).

Fifteen years ago, March 25, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,223,791,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred twenty-three billion, seven hundred ninety-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,320,546,068,114.14 (Four trillion, three hundred twenty billion, five hundred forty-six million, sixty-eight thousand, one hundred fourteen dollars and fourteen cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1178. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2589. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes.

At 5:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1757) to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States

and Russia, to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2589. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 26, 1998 he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 758. An act to make certain technical corrections to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4424. A communication from the Chairman of the Long-Range Air Power Panel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of recommendations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4425. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4426. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for the fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4427. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4428. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4429. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4430. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4431. A communication from the Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4432. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4433. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4434. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4435. A communication from the Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4436. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the Wabash River project in New Harmony, Indiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4437. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to notice of funds availability and technical assistance component; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4438. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to notice of funds availability and the Core Component; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4439. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 24, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4440. A communication from the Secretary of the Security and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to use of web sites in securities transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4441. A communication from the President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to exports to Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4442. A communication from the President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to exports to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-368. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Arizona; ordered to lie on the table.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the fortieth president of the United States, was one of this nation's greatest and most beloved presidents and a true world leader; and

Whereas, through his leadership and dedication to principle, President Reagan ushered in a new era of sustained peace, prosperity, optimism and freedom for both our nation and much of the world; and

Whereas, President Reagan established fiscal policies that invigorated the American economy, stimulating growth, employment and investment while curbing federal spending, inflation and interest and tax rates; and